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Of Engineers®**  
Nashville District  
P.O. Box 1070  
Nashville, TN 37202-1070

# News Release

05-08

Release No.

April 18, 2005

For Release:

Bill Peoples [William.L.Peoples@usace.army.mil](mailto:William.L.Peoples@usace.army.mil)

Contact:

(615) 736-7161

Phone:

**DRAFT**

## Chickamauga Lock Groundbreaking signals start of Lock Replacement effort

**NASHVILLE, TENN., (April 18, 2005)** - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will celebrate the official start of construction of the Replacement Lock at a Groundbreaking on April 22, 2005 at 11 a.m. at Chickamauga Lock.

The public is invited to attend the Groundbreaking and help the Corps of Engineers and TVA celebrate the official start of the \$309M project.

“Chickamauga Lock serves as ‘Gateway to the Upper Tennessee’ for both commercial and recreational navigation on the Tennessee River,” said Lt. Col. Byron Jorns, commander of the Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “The Nashville District and the Corps of Engineers will continue the aggressive maintenance needed to keep the present lock open and operating safely as we design and build the new lock.”

The new 110-foot by 600-foot lock will cut the average lockage time for a 16-barge commercial tow from 16 hours to approximately 2-1/2 hours. The new lock will boost the economy of eastern Tennessee providing greater capacity for the commodities from East Tennessee to be shipped throughout the United States at lower costs. Recreational users will also benefit from the decreased wait times.

Construction of the new lock is schedule to begin in 2006. The initial construction effort will bring this summer with the relocation of Lake Resort Drive and some utility relocations.

The original lock was dedicated in 1940 by President and Mrs. Roosevelt. Soon after TVA discovered an alkali aggregate reaction problem (commonly called concrete growth) existed throughout the lock. Studies by TVA and the Corps have concluded that the problem will continue and eventually lead to the closure of the lock. The Corps of Engineers has instituted an aggressive maintenance program to monitor the lock and ensure its safe operation while the new lock is being constructed.

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# To Better Serve The Public

“We are spending an extra \$?M a year in maintenance costs to monitor the concrete growth problem in the lock and mitigated its affects,” said Wayne Huddleston, the Corps’ project manager for the new lock design and construction. “The Corps of Engineers is ready to continue the design and construction of the new lock as the President’s Budget and Congressional funding allow.”

In February 2002, the US Congress authorized the replacement of the 60-foot x 360-foot lock with the new 110-foot by 600-foot lock. This authorization and subsequent funding was largely due to the efforts of U.S. Representatives Zach Wamp and John Duncan with help from U.S. Senators Bill Frist and Lamar Alexander. These four members of Congress plan to attend the Groundbreaking as well as Governor Phil Bredesen and other local officials and industry executives.

In addition to the Groundbreaking event, exhibits will showcase the history of the lock, provide an overview of the concrete growth problem and show how a lock operates.

Note: Media organizations are invited to attend. Media point of contact is Bill Peoples, 615-736-7834.